

Lesson 4: Learning from a Faithful Leader

Text: 1 Samuel 12:1-25

Purpose: God moved the narrator to record Samuel's address to the people, after Saul's installment as King, in order to demonstrate God's righteous care of His people through Samuel, His hand picked judge.

Proposition: God wants to continually equip leaders for His service; therefore He is instructing you through His rule by Samuel.

Section 1: Understanding the Context:

Story Line:

- 1 Samuel 10:17-25 Samuel presents Saul as Israel's first king:
- 1 Samuel 10:26-27 Saul shows restraint though his new leadership is not embraced by all the people.
- 1 Samuel 11:1-15 God providentially establishes Saul as Israel's new leader by stirring him up to defend Jabesh Gilead against the Ammonites.

The focus of our study 1 Samuel 12

- 1 Samuel 12:1-5 Samuel defends his ministry to Israel:
- 1 Samuel 12:6-12 Samuel defends God's righteous rule over Israel:
- 1 Samuel 12:13-15 Samuel encourages the people to be faithful in spite of their foolish demands.
- 1 Samuel 12:16-18 Samuel provides a sign to confirm the truthfulness of his message to the people.
- 1 Samuel 12:19 The people respond with in fear and sorrow.
- 1 Samuel 12:20-22 Samuel reassures the people of God's love for them:
- 1 Samuel 12:23-25 Samuel restates his pastoral care for the people:

Section 2: Several Observations from this passage

- **Observation 1: Godly leadership is not always properly appreciated: 12:2-3**
- **Observation 2: Godly leadership is not about self: 12:4**
- **Observation 3: Godly leadership is unbiased in how it administrates its oversight: 12:3**
- **Observation 4: Godly leadership is most concerned with God's view of their service: 12:2-3**
- **Observation 5: Godly leadership patterns their judgments after God's word: example:**
 - 1 Samuel 3:19
 - Psalm 99:6
 - Godly leaders are gospel centered people.
 - Godly leaders apply God's tools to bring them along in spiritual maturity.

Section 3: Areas where God may place me to lead:

- **Family leadership:**
- **Church leadership**

- **Community leadership**

Section 4: Practical Applications

- **Have realistic expectations about how people will view your leadership.**
- **Keep your pride and tendencies to self-promotion in check.**
- **Labor to be consistent and unbiased in the ways you handle the people under your care.**
- **Keep your eyes fixed on the Judgment Seat of Christ.**
- **Be a scripture saturated individual.**
- **Develop discernment by studying the examples in scripture.**

Conclusion: God wants to equip you for His service, by instructing you through His rule by Samuel. Let us take to heart these great truths, as God works in us for His honor!